NUMB. CCCCXCVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

----- Fruſtra retinacula tendens
Fertur equis Auriga, neque audit currus habenas.

Wedneſday, October 1. 1712.

To the SPECTATOR GENERAL *of* Great Britain.

From the farther End of the Widow's Coffee-houſe in Devereaux-Court, Monday *Evening*, 28 *Minutes and a Half paſt Six.*

Dear Dumb,

'IN ſhort, to uſe no further Preface, if I 'ſhould tell you that I have ſeen a Hackney-Coachman, when he has come to ſet 'down his Fare, which has conſiſted of 'two or three very fine Ladies, hand them out, 'and ſalute every one of them with an Air of Familiarity, without giving the leaſt Offence, you 'would perhaps think me guilty of a Gaſconade. 'But to clear my ſelf from that Imputation, and 'to explain this Matter to you, I aſſure you that 'there are many illuſtrious Youths within this City, who frequently recreate themſelves by driving 'of a Hackney-Coach: But thoſe whom, above 'all others, I would recommend to you, are the 'young Gentlemen belonging to our Inns of Court. 'We have, I think, about a dozen Coachmen, 'who have Chambers here in the *Temple*; and as 'it is reaſonable to believe others will follow their 'Example, we may perhaps in Time, (if it ſhall 'be thought convenient) be drove to *Weſtminſter* 'by our own Fraternity, allowing every fifth Perſon to apply his Meditations this Way, which is 'but a moderate Computation as the Humour is now 'likely to take. It is to be hoped likewiſe, that 'there are in the other Nurſeries of the Law to be 'found a proportionable Number of theſe hopeful 'Plants, ſpringing up to the everlaſting Renown of 'their native Country. Of how long ſtanding this 'Humour has been, I know not; the firſt Time I 'had any particular Reaſon to take Notice of it 'was about this Time Twelvemonth, when, being upon *Hampſtead-Heath* with ſome of theſe 'ſtudious young Men, who went thither purely 'for the Sake of Contemplation, nothing would 'ſerve them but I muſt go thorough a Courſe of 'this Philoſophy to; and being ever willing to 'embelliſh my ſelf with any commendable Qualification, it was not long e'er they perſwaded me 'into the Coach-box; nor indeed much longer 'before I underwent the Fate of my Brother *Phaeton*, for having drove about fifty Paces with pretty good Succeſs, through my own natural Sagacity, together with the good Inſtructions of my 'Tutors, who, to give them their Due, were on all 'Hands encouraging and aſſiſting me in this laudable Undertaking; I ſay, Sir, having drove about 'fifty Paces with pretty good Succeſs, I muſt needs 'be exerciſing the Laſh, which the Horſes reſented 'ſo ill from my Hands, that they gave a ſudden 'Start, and thereby pitched me directly upon my 'Head, as I very well remembered about Half an 'Hour afterwards, which not only deprived me of 'all the Knowledge I had gain'd for fifty Yards 'before, but had like to have broken my Neck into the Bargain. After ſuch a ſevere Reprimand, 'you may imagine I was not very eaſily prevail'd 'with to make a ſecond Attempt; and indeed, upon mature Deliberation, the whole Science ſeemed, at leaſt to me, to be ſurrounded with ſo many 'Difficulties, that notwithſtanding the unknown Advantages which might have accrued to me thereby, I gave over all Hopes of attaining it, and I believe had never thought of it more, but that 'my Memory has been lately refreſhed by ſeeing 'ſome of theſe ingenious Gentlemen ply in the

'open

'open Streets, one of which I saw receive so suitable a Reward to his Labours, that tho' I know 'you are no Friend to Story-telling, yet I must 'beg Leave to trouble you with this at large.

'About a Fortnight since, as I was diverting my self with a Pennyworth of Wall-nuts 'at the *Temple*-Gate, a lively young Fellow 'in a Fustian Jacket shot by me, beckon'd 'a Coach, and told the Coachman he wanted to go as far as *Chelsey*: They agreed upon the Price, and this young Gentleman mounts the 'Coach-box; the Fellow staring at him, desired to know if he should not drive till they were out 'of Town? No, no, reply'd he: He was then going 'to climb up to him, but receiv'd another Check, 'and was then ordered to get into the Coach, or 'behind it, for that he wanted no Instructors; 'but be sure, you Dog you, says he, don't you 'balk me. The Fellow thereupon surrender'd 'his Whip, scratch'd his Head, and crept into the 'Coach. Having my self Occasion to go into the *Strand* about the same Time, we started both together; but the Street being very full of Coaches, 'and he not so able a Coachman as perhaps he 'imagined himself, I had soon got a little Way before him often; however, having the Curiosity 'to cast my Eye back upon him to observe how 'he behaved himself in this high Station, which 'he did with great Composure till he came to the 'Rasa, which is a Military Term the Brothers of 'the Whip have given the Straight Part of St. *Clement's* 'Church, where he was arrested near this Place, 'but there always Coaches in waiting, the Coachmen began to suck up the Muscles of their Cheeks, 'and to tip the Wink upon each other, as if they had some Roguery in their Heads, which I was 'immediately convinced of, for he no sooner came 'within Reach, but the first of them with his 'Whip took the exact Dimension of his Shoulders, 'which he very ingeniously call'd Endorsing; and 'indeed I must say that every one of them took due 'Care to endorse him as he came thro' their Hands. 'He seem'd at first a little uneasy under the Operation, and was going in all haste to take the 'Numbers of their Coaches; but at length, by 'the Mediation of the worthy Gentleman in the 'Coach, his Wrath was assuaged, and he prevail'd upon to pursue his Journey; though indeed I thought they had clapt such a Spoke in 'his Wheel, as had disabled him from being a 'Coachman for that Day at least. For I am only 'mistaken, Mr. Spec. if some of these Endorsements were not wrote in so stron[illegible] a Hand, that 'they are still legible. Upon my enquiring the Reason of this unusual Salutation, they told me, that 'it was a Custom among them, whenever they 'saw a Brother tottering or unable in his Post, 'to lend him a Hand in order to settle him again 'therein: For my part I thought their Allegations 'but reasonable, and so march'd off. Besides, our 'Coachmen do abound in divers other Sorts of 'ingenious robust Youth, who, I hope, will not 'take it ill if I offer giving you an Account of their 'several Excellencies on another Opportunity. In 'the mean time, if you would be better a little 'of your wholsome Advice upon our Coachmen, 'it might perhaps be a Reprieve to some of their 'Necks. As I understand you have several Inspectors under you, if you would but send one amongst us here in the *Temple*, I am perswaded 'he would not want Employment. But I leave 'this to your own Consideration, and am,

SIR,

Your very humble Servant,

Moses Greenbag.

P. S. 'I have heard our Criticks in the Coffee-houses hereabout talk mightily of the Unity of 'Time and Place: According to my Notion of the 'Matter, I have endeavoured at something like it 'in the Beginning of my Epistle. I desire to be 'inform'd a little as to that Particular. In my next 'I design to give you some Account of excellent 'Watermen, who are bred to the Law, and far 'outdo the Land-Students abovementioned.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow being Thursday, the 2d of October, will be presented a Comedy, call'd, Rule a Wife, and have a Wife: Written by Beaumont and Fletcher. The Part of Leon by Mr. Powell, the Copper Captain by Mr. Wilks, Estifania by Mrs. Oldfield, Celadon by Mr. Bullock, Margaretta by Mrs. Knight, Elvira by Mrs. Bicknell, Old Woman by Mr. Norris. To which will be added a Farce, call'd, The Country Wake: The Part of Hobb by Mr. Doggett. By Her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

At Mr. Bradshaw's, at the Blackmore's-Head, fronting Ivy-Lane in Paternoster-Row, all Persons concern'd in the Two present Lotteries, may have the Numbers of their Tickets Register'd as soon as any of their Tickets are drawn. There Notice will be given them whether Blank or Prize, either in Town or Country, by the next Post, at 6d. per Ticket. At the same Place will be kept a Numerical Book of Both Lotteries, by which all Persons may be Informed every Minute whether their Tickets be drawn Blanks or Prizes.

Poems upon Several Occasions, Written by the Right Honourable George Granville Lord Lansdown, most of which were never before printed. Printed for Jacob Tonson, against Catherine-Street in the Strand.

Infallible Cure for Diseases of the Nerves, whether Fistical, Convulsive, Trembling, Contractions, Relaxations, Weakness, Numbness, Cramps, &c. by a Cephalick Tincture, whose Effects are really wonderful, not to be believed, but by those that have taken it; be the Disease from whatever Cause, or seated in any part whatsoever. It does not only relieve, but absolutely cures. To be had for 5 s. the Bottle with Directions, at the Golden Key in Warwick Court near Holborn Bars.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beaufort-Buildings* in the *Strand*.